(b) with the launch of the meteorological satellite how the meteorogical services presently being provided by INSAT would improve;

(c) whether the METSAT has been commissioned into service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Meterological Satellite (METSAT) carries a Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR) designed to obtain images of the Earth in the visible, thermal infrared and water vapour channels of the electromagnetic spectrum. Being a geostationary satellite, METSAT enables continuous, round the clock monitoring of the weather system. The addition of water vapour channel in METSAT enables inference of the moisture content as well as helps in deriving indirectly the winds in the middle atmosphere. Together with the data from visible and infrared channels, this water vapour channel information is expected to add valuable information towards weather forecasting. METSAT also carries a Data Relay Transponder (DRT) enabling collection of meteorological, hydrological and oceanographic data from remote and inaccessible areas over land.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. METSAT has been commissioned into operational service and the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has been making use of data from METSAT in their weather services on a regular basis.

Demand of fee for using transponders

315. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Department of Space is now demanding Rs. 500 crores as fee from Prasar Bharati for using its transponders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Department of Space had requested Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to pay for the INSAT transponder capacity utilised. The total amount payable by Ministry

of Information & Broadcasting to Department of Space was Rs. 316.00 Crore — Rs. 144.00 Crores for Financial year 2001-02 and Rs. 172.00 Crores for Financial Year 2002-03.

(c) Such a request is the outcome of directions by appropriate authorities in Government of India to collect transponder charges from all the users.

Progress of Ongoing Projects

†316. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were a number of ongoing projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the number of such projects out of the above which were to be completed during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether the ongoing projects of the Ninth Five Year Plan have been included in Tenth Five year Plan, if so, the number thereof; and

(d) the number of such projects out of the above which were to be completed during the Ninth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the 9th Five Year Plan, 848 on going Central Sector Projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above, inclusive of projects carried over from the 8th Five Year Plan, period were on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. Out of these, 536 projects were scheduled to be completed during the 9th Five Year Plan period.

(c) yes, Sir; 413.

(d) 193.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.